

Minutes

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

GATEWAY CITIES SERVICE SECTOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

The Gas Company
9240 Firestone Blvd.
Downey, CA 90241

Called to Order at 2:05 p.m.

Council Members present:

Samuel Peña (Chair)
Bonnie Lowenthal (Vice Chair)
JoAnn Eros-Delgado
Larry R. Nelson
Jacqueline Rynerson
Wally Shidler
Cynde Soto

Officers:

Alex Clifford, General Manager
Sharon Sterling, Council Secretary

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call/Self Introductions
3. Public Comment

Mr. James Gusky stated that at the Norwalk Station the Ticket Vending Machines are not equipped to dispense a Day Pass purchased with tokens. Mr. Dave Hershenson stated that he had asked Marketing about this subject, and was told that the ticket vending machines were not equipped to accept tokens for day passes. New ticketing machines will be arriving with the new Universal Fare System, which may or may not accept tokens for Day Passes.

Ms. Susie Meekins from the Watts area expressed her appreciation to the Council and staff for implementing Line 612 and encouraged them to advertise it for better ridership. Mr. Sieckert stated they are working with the Marketing Department to promote the line. Mr. Clifford further stated that they are working with Communications for a bottom up approach and they took a big chance to create the line.

4. APPROVED Minutes of March 11, 2004 Council Meeting
5. RECEIVED oral report of General Manager Alex Clifford

Access Services:

Mr. Clifford stated the sector concerns regarding the transportation services and the impacts to Council member Cindy Soto were expressed to Access Services Inc. representative and MTA Contract Services Director. ASI will be invited to present at the next Governance Council meeting.

Marketing:

Council member concerns and suggestions have been forwarded to the Marketing Department representatives regarding:

- 1) Cost of take ones and marketing material to the Marketing Department.
- 2) Sunday Family Day promotion.
- 3) Suggest that Marketing include rider testimonials in their campaigns.
- 4) Sector staff is developing a card to be placed on the buses to promote monthly scheduled Governance Council meetings.

Safety:

Staff is currently working on identifying the high accident locations within the sector region. Report forthcoming.

Outreach:

- 3/23 - Three Townhall meetings were conducted in the cities of Bell, Cudahy and South Gate.
- 3/23 - Night Owl Bus Ride-Along on Line 18 was conducted. Mr. Clifford stated that he was accompanied by Council member Larry Nelson, Dan Nguyen and Mike Sieckert.
- 3/27 - Participated in Ceasar Chavez Day Event at Mayberry Park.

Upcoming Meetings:

4/7 - Gateway Cities COG Transportation Committee Meeting-Introduction of Alex Clifford

4/15 - 1 p.m. MTA Operations Committee Meeting

MTA Governance Council Sector Chairman Presentations (San Gabriel Valley, South Bay, San Fernando Valley, Westside/Central and Gateway Cities). All members are welcome to attend.

4/16 - Sector Staff/Governance Council Bus Ride-Along.

4/20 - Lynwood City Council meeting.

Note: The 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month are dedicated sector Bus Ride-Along days.

School Presentations

ABC School District has been contacted. Awaiting a response to schedule presentations.

LA Unified School District currently soliciting elementary schools interested in safety and anti-graffiti demonstrations.

Upcoming Agenda Topics

Review Bylaws

Review Transit Policy

Elections-Chairpersons

Muni presentations

MTA Legislative Update

ASI Presentation

Employer Programs/Ridesharing Program

Management Audit

Diversity and Economic Development

Operations Report

Mr. Clifford provided a copy of the February 2004 Gateway Operations Report to the Council members. He explained the variances, detailed on a line-by-line comparison to the budget.

Ms. Lowenthal requested a report that shows the break down of the different accident categories.

6. RECEIVED oral report on FY 2005 Budget by Alex Clifford

Mr. Clifford stated that the figures provided as part of the estimated funding for the FY05 budget are still fluid and the Board is continuing to make budget cuts and changes. He reported that the total revenue available for bus operations is approximately \$756.8 million. This represents a 1% increase over FY04. Mr. Clifford stated that farebox revenues are approximately \$245 million, and advertising revenues are around \$14 million, totaling \$259 million. The target is to balance the expenses and revenues. The current budget does not include consent decree funding as the decision of the Board regarding this issue is still pending.

7. RECEIVED and FILED Service program for June 2004 by Mike Sieckert, Transportation Planning Manager IV and Dan Nguyen, Service Development Manager

The June Shakeup is scheduled to be implemented on Sunday, June 27, 2004. At that time a number of minor service changes will be made to bus lines operating in the Gateway Cities area:

- Implement minor running time adjustments to some lines to improve service reliability. This will entail adding, deleting, or reallocating running time along some route segments to improve on-time performance.
- Implement new rapid bus service (Line 705) along Vernon Avenue and La Cienega Boulevard. This will require the restructuring of Line 105, the local bus line that currently serves this corridor.
- Cancel the route segment of Line 18 now operated during the late night hours between Montebello and Whittier. Discussions with Montebello Transit are underway to determine whether that operator can assume all or a portion of the affected late night trips on this line. Currently, Montebello Line 10 provides service seven days a week along this segment until midnight. From midnight to about 5 a.m., MTA Line 18 serves this segment from Montebello to Whittier. Eight trips are impacted.
- Implement new Metro Rapid bus service (Line 751) along Soto St. This change is proposed by the San Gabriel Valley Sector that also controls Line 251, the underlying local service.
- Extend the route of Line 681 to serve Slauson Station. This change is proposed by the South Bay Sector and is intended to provide partial replacement for line 107.

8. RECEIVED oral report on Metro Connections Update by Nancy Michali, Director of Service Performance and Analysis

Ms. Michali explained that “Metro Connections” is the new name for the hub and spoke system scheduled to be implemented in 2005. Comments received thus far include support, concerns and recommendations, but most people agree there is a need to look at the system. Some concern has been expressed regarding how partnerships are built with the Municipal operators and how the new system is phased in. Transit centers and corridors need to fit in with local plans, and the focus needs to be on serving current riders first. Some want the process to be slowed down to assure that all stakeholders can be involved. Regional funding strategies need to be rethought. Ms. Michali would like to return to strategize on what some of the improvements should be.

9. RECEIVED oral update on Line 18 Ride-Along by Council member Nelson

Mr. Nelson, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Nguyen and Mr. Sieckert conducted the Line 18 Ride-Along from approximately midnight to 4:00 a.m. trip. Mr. Nelson stated that this was a positive experience to ride the owl service. It gave a greater appreciation for what the operator

encounters on a regular basis. They were able to see the faces of the passengers who rely on the service, late evenings getting off work. Mr. Nelson stated the ridership went from 1 or 2 people to none for a span of time. Mr. Nelson stated it does not pay to run this late service, and that MTA is “lucky if they took in \$20.00.” He supports the staff proposal to eliminate the Montebello to Whittier segment of the trip because it is not cost effective.

Mr. Shidler asked if the morning heavy trip could be maintained. Mr. Sieckert stated that Montebello Transit would operate the 4:00 a.m. trip. In the 2:00 – 3:00 a.m. timeframe there is no replacement service; ridership during this period is lightest. Mr. Rynerson asked if the riders would be given notice. Mr. Nelson stated they have been, only 1 out of 500 people (a telephone call) opposed the change. This will be investigated and staff will provide an update.

Mr. Shidler expressed his concerns regarding the Union Pacific problem that ties up service such as Slauson and what will be done to mitigate it. Staff investigation and report to follow.

10. RECEIVED oral update on Division 1 Land Acquisition by Gateway Cities Councilmember Wally Shidler

Mr. Shidler attended the MTA Board Meeting on March 25, 2004 and reports that a recommendation was made to the Board to (a) hold a public hearing on the proposed resolution of necessity and (b) adopt the Resolution of Necessity authorizing the commencement of an eminent domain action to acquire the property located on the west side of Alameda, between Industrial and 7th Streets in Los Angeles. The Board amendment directed staff to negotiate with appropriate property owners for the development of adequate, mutually agreeable parking.

11. Councilmembers' Remarks

Ms. Lowenthal requested a report on Access services.

Mr. Shidler commended four MTA employees who attended community meetings. He requested staff to prepare commendation certificates to the following employees for their involvement in community outreach:

Robert Rodriguez – Bus Operator, Div. 2 – March 24th Bell Community Center

Dyana Elorriaga – Mechanic, Div. 1 – March 24th City of Cudahy

Maria Avila – Bus Operator, Div. 1 – March 25th South Gate

Elizabeth Arellano – Bus Operator, Div. 1 – March 25th South Gate

Mr. Nelson asked for an update on the pending joint Council meeting. Mr. Hershenson stated they would start polling all the members to set a date. Update will be provided at the next meeting.

12. Chairman's Remarks – None

Mr. Peña stated the Council was surprised that wheelchair tie-downs are not mandatory on MTA. Mr. Clifford visited Long Beach Transit and they never have to address that issue. Ms. Soto stated the weight of her motorized wheelchair and gravity will cause the wheelchair to move if it is not secured on the bus. Mr. Shidler stated that Long Beach and Montebello

Transit have a policy regarding securing the wheelchair. Also, OCTA abides by the federal law to avail the front designated seats to handicap and elderly passengers. Mr. Shidler would also appreciate a report regarding the ASI certification.

Ms. Lou Mitchell, South Bay Sector Governance Council was acknowledged for attending the Gateway Cities Council meeting.

13. Consideration of Items Not Posted on the Agenda – None

Next Meeting:

Thursday, May 13, 2004 – 2:00 p.m.

The Gas Company
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Adjourned at 3:45 p.m.



Prepared by: Sharon Sterling
Council Secretary